Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A data signaling method for message-based communication between a first communications unit and a second communications unit, said method comprising the steps of:

initiating said message-based inter-unit communication by providing, in said first communications unit, a state comprising communications unit-associated data common to multiple communications messages to be transmitted between said first communications unit and said second communications unit;

generating a copy of said state;

transmitting said state copy and a first identifier of said state copy from said first communications unit to said second communications unit;

generating a second identifier based on said received state copy;

comparing said received first identifier and said generated second identifier;

storing said state copy in said second communications unit; and

processing, if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier, a communications message of said multiple communications messages using said state or said state copy by modulating a size of said communications message based on at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said processing step comprises the steps of:

said first communications unit removing at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state from said communications message to obtain a reduced-size communications message; and

said first communications unit transmitting said reduced-size communications message to said second communications unit.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of said second communications unit adding at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state copy to said reduced-size communications message to obtain said communications message.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said processing step comprises the steps of:

said second communications unit removing at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state copy from said communications message to obtain a reduced-size communications message; and

said second communications unit transmitting said reduced-size communications message to said first communications unit.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of said first communications unit adding at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state to said reduced-size communications message to obtain said communications message.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said storing step comprises the step of storing said state copy in a compartment dedicated to said first communications unit at said second communications unit if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of copying said state copy from said compartment dedicated to said first communications unit at said second communications unit to a locally available state memory at said second communications unit.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of storing said state in a locally available state memory at said first communications unit.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said inter-unit communication comprises compressed message-based communication between said first and second communications unit, said method comprising the step of said first communications unit compressing said communications message based on said state, and said processing step comprises the step of said second communications unit decompressing said compressed communications message based on said state copy.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said inter-unit communication comprises compressed message-based communication between said first and second communications unit, said method comprising the step of said second communications unit compressing said communications message based on said state copy, and said processing step comprises the step of said first communications unit decompressing said compressed communications message based on said state.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said multiple communications messages are compressed using a SigComp compression.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

said second communications unit receiving an acknowledge identifier from said first communication unit; and

said second communications unit returning said acknowledge identifier to said first communications unit if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier.

39. (Previously Presented) A communications unit adapted for message-based communication with an external communication unit, said communications unit comprising:

means for receiving a copy of a state comprising communications unit-associated data common to multiple communications messages to be transmitted between said communications unit and said external communications unit;

means for receiving a first identifier of said state copy;

means for generating a second identifier based on said received state copy;

means for comparing said received first identifier and said generated second identifier;

means for storing said state copy; and

means, responsive to said comparing means, for processing a communications message of said multiple communications messages using said stored state copy if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier, said processing means being configured for modulating a size of said communications message based on at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state copy.

40. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 39, wherein said communications message is a reduced-size communications message and processing means comprises means for adding at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state copy to said reduced-size communications message.

41. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 40, further comprising a compressor and decompressor, said adding means being provided in said decompressor for decompressing a received compressed communications message from said external communications unit by adding said at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state copy to said compressed communications message.

42. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 39, wherein said processing means comprises means for removing at least a portion of said

communications unit-associated data in said state copy from said communications message.

43. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 42, further comprising a compressor and decompressor, said removing means being provided in said compressor for compressing a communications message intended to said external communications unit by removing said at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state copy from said communications message.

44. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 41, wherein said compressor and decompressor are configured for signal compression and decompression using a SigComp protocol.

45. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 39, wherein said comparing means is configured for generating a storing command if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier and said storing means is configured for storing said state copy upon reception of said storing command.

46. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 39, wherein said storing means is configured for storing said state copy in a compartment dedicated to said external communications unit.

47. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 46, further means for copying said state copy from said compartment dedicated to said external communications unit to a locally available state memory.

48. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 39, further comprising means, responsive to said comparing means, for transmitting an acknowledge identifier to said external communications unit if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier.

49. (Previously Presented) A communications unit adapted for message-based communication with an external communication unit, said communications unit comprising:

means for generating a state comprising communications unit-associated data common to multiple communications messages to be transmitted between said communications unit and said external communications unit;

means for storing said state;

means for generating a copy of said state;

means for providing said state copy for storage in said external communications unit and for providing a first identifier of said state copy to said external communications unit;

means for receiving an acknowledge identifier from said external communications, said acknowledge identifier being transmitted in response to a correspondence between said first identifier and a second identifier, said second identifier being generated by said external communications unit based on said state copy; and

means, responsive to said receiving means, for processing a communications message of said multiple communications messages using said stored state if said second identifier corresponds to said first identifier as determined by reception of said acknowledge identifier, said processing means being configured for modulating a size of said communications message based on at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state.

50. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 49, wherein said processing means comprises means for removing at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state from said communications message.

51. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 50, further comprising a compressor and decompressor, said removing means being provided in said compressor for compressing a communications message intended to said external

communications unit by removing said at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state from said communications message.

52. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 49, wherein said communications message is a reduced-size communications message and said processing means comprises means for adding at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state to said reduced-size communications message.

53. (Previously Presented) The communications unit according to claim 52, further comprising a compressor and decompressor, said adding means being provided in said decompressor for decompressing a received compressed communications message from said external communications unit by adding said at least a portion of said communications unit-associated data in said state to said compressed communications message.

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